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MEDIA RELEASE

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CITY COUNCIL MEMBER PUSHES FOR TRANSPARENCY ON DREDGING

JACKSONVILLE, FL. – After reviewing the recent statement by the Council President to refuse to hold a public forum on the dredging project, I will continue to request and call for transparency on this project by JAXPORT. I have continually called for a public hearing as I believe the ultimate cost of the dredging and the mitigation of the St. Johns River will be much greater than JAXPORT has publicly stated. For every reason the Council President has provided, I believe there are many more questions and reasons to support the need for a public forum.

As I've publicly stated, I do not object to the proposed project but do think that it needs to be properly vetted. We owe it to the citizens of Jacksonville to provide the answers to their many questions regarding this megaproject. We do not know the final cost of this project. We do not know the environmental impact of this project. We do not know the economic impact of this project. We do not know when or if JAXPORT will come to the City for money to complete this project. There are clearly many unknown variables and it is incumbent on us as a City Council to ask and provide the answers for the public.

It is disrespectful to our citizens to spend hundreds of millions of dollars on such a massive project without having more definitive and clear-cut answers to the final cost of the dredging and impact it may have to our St. Johns River and waterways. Just as the members of Council and the citizens of this City have the right to know these answers; JAXPORT does not have the right to remain silent.